

Public Notice

U S Army Corps of Engineers

Huntington District

In reply refer to Public Notice No.

Issuance Date:

200400434-1

January 24, 2006

Stream: UN Trib to Tuscarawas River

Closing Date:

February 23, 2006

Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. (reference above)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5710

PUBLIC NOTICE: The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

REGULATORY PROGRAM: Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

SECTION 404: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the Ohio Department of Environmental Protection (OEPA to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application:

APPLICANT:

Oxford Mining Company, Inc.

544 Chestnut St. PO Box 427

Coshocton, OH 43812-0427

LOCATION: The proposed project is located approximately 2 miles southeast of Gnadenhutten, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place fill material into approximately 6,865 linear feet of unnamed tributaries to Stillwater Creek and unnamed tributaries to the Tuscarawas River in association with a surface mining operation (Ohio DNR Permit D-2245 and application 10289). The fill material would be generated from mining the No. 7 coal seam within the applicant's coal permit area. The proposed impacts would be in association with coal removal, seven embankment (sediment) ponds, one road crossing and placement of excess spoil. The following table documents the proposed permanent and temporary impacts associated with this project under the applicant's preferred alternative.

Stream	Proposed Impact	Impact Type	Intermittent	Ephemeral
VD LCT "			(linear feet)	(linear feet)
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent	690	244
Tuscarawas River	Pond 005, Spoil			
(Stream A)	Placement, Road			
	Crossing			
UN Trib to	Spoil Placement	Permanent	250	
Tuscarawas River				
(Stream A1)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent	250	157
Tuscarawas River	Spoil Placement			
(Stream B)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent	250	356
Tuscarawas River	Spoil Placement			
(Stream C)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent	320	373
Tuscarawas River	Pond 004			
(Stream D)				
UN Trib to	Spoil Placement	Temporary	725	
Tuscarawas River	_	1		
(Stream D)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent	250	331
Tuscarawas River	Spoil Placement			
(Stream E)				
UN Trib to	Pond 003	Permanent	140	
Tuscarawas River				
(Stream F)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal	Permanent		20
Tuscarawas River				
(Ephemeral #6)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal	Permanent		40
Tuscarawas River				
(Ephemeral #7)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal,	Permanent		400
Stillwater Creek	Pond 012			
(Ephemeral #8)				

Stream	Proposed Impact	Impact Type	Intermittent (linear feet)	Ephemeral (linear feet)
UN Trib to	Pond 006	Permanent	` .	340
Stillwater Creek				
(Ephemeral #9)				
UN Trib to	Pond 007	Permanent	400	
Stillwater Creek				
(Stream G)				
UN Trib to	Spoil Placement	Temporary	829	
Stillwater Creek				
(Stream G)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal	Temporary	55	
Stillwater Creek				
(Stream H)				
UN Trib to	Coal Removal	Permanent		397
Stillwater Creek				
(Stream H)				
UN Trib to	Pond 009	Permanent	48	
Stillwater Creek				
(Stream I)				

Temporary impacts are defined as approximately 3+ years, where the mining activity would be completed within 3 years to be followed by reclamation, during which some of the proposed coal removal and spoil areas would be reconstructed/restored. Four of the proposed eleven embankment ponds would be located outside of waters of the US (Ponds 001, 002, 008 & 010). The coal permit area would encompass approximately 398 acres, with 66.7 acres to be affected by auger mining and 164.5 acres to be strip-mined. In total, approximately 2,598 linear feet of intermittent stream and 2,658 linear feet of ephemeral stream would be permanently impacted and 1,609 linear feet of intermittent stream would be temporarily impacted for overall impacts of 6,865 linear feet of stream.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS: This project is not considered to be water dependent; therefore, the applicant is required to show that other less damaging practicable alternatives are not available that would achieve the applicant's goal. No permit will be issued until our review of the alternative analysis clearly shows that upland alternatives are not available to achieve the applicant's goal. The applicant has submitted the required alternatives analysis, and it is currently being reviewed by this office.

MITIGATION PLAN: The applicant provided a compensatory mitigation plan to compensate for temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the United States regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed compensatory mitigation under the applicant's preferred alternative would include the restoration of 1,609 linear feet of intermittent stream temporarily impacted by spoil placement by using natural stream channel design. The applicant proposes to use the open water creation (ponds in above table) of approximately 6.64 acres and the elimination of 0.7 miles (3,696 feet) of existing highwall as mitigation for the remaining impacts.

Plans of the proposed work including the proposed mitigation are attached to this notice.

A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the certification from the OEPA. The applicant's coal mining permit was originally approved by the Ohio DNR on August 3, 2005. Work has not commenced at this mine, and a new application is currently pending with the Ohio DNR under application 10289.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and it has been determined that there no listed properties listed on the Register in the area affected by the project. A copy of this public notice will be furnished to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office for their review. Comments concerning archeological sensitivity of the project area should be based upon collected data.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES REVIEW: This project is located within the known or historic range of the following federally-listed species:

Indiana bat Clubshell mussel Bald eagle

The Huntington District has consulted the most recently available information and based on this information, the proposed project is not likely to affect the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species which has been determined to be critical. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest that may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity. This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404(b) (1) of the CWA. Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic

properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. For accuracy and completeness of the administrative record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

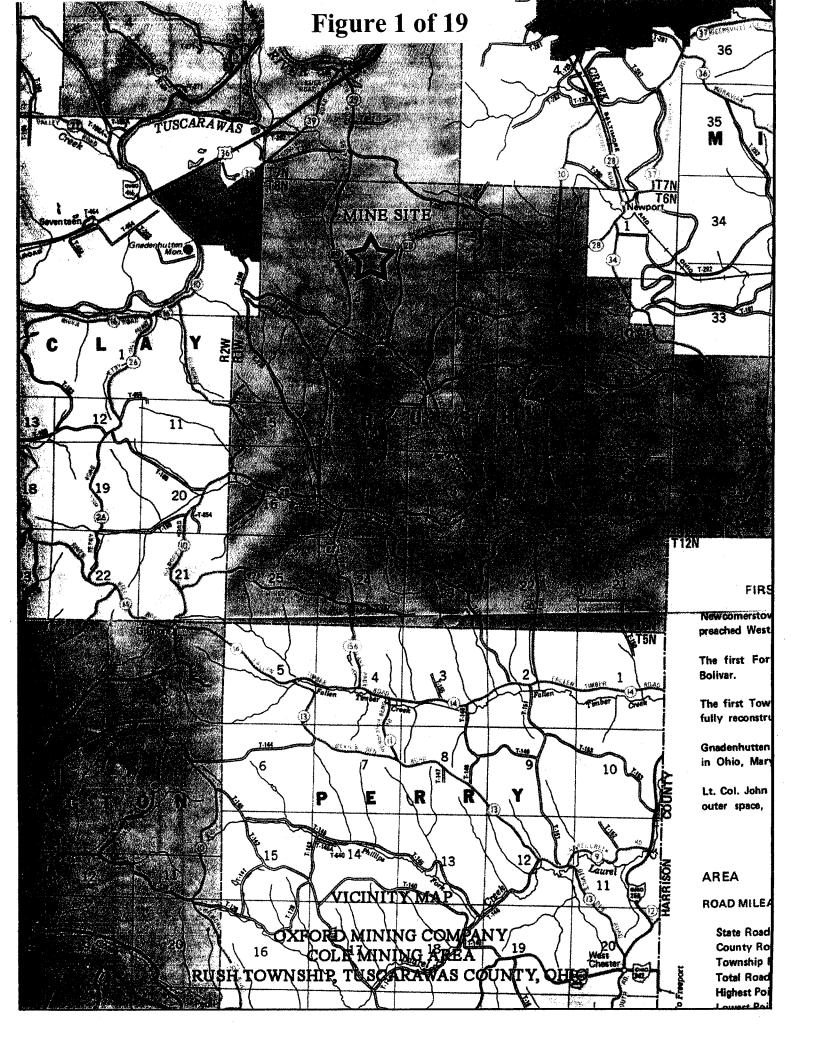
CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.

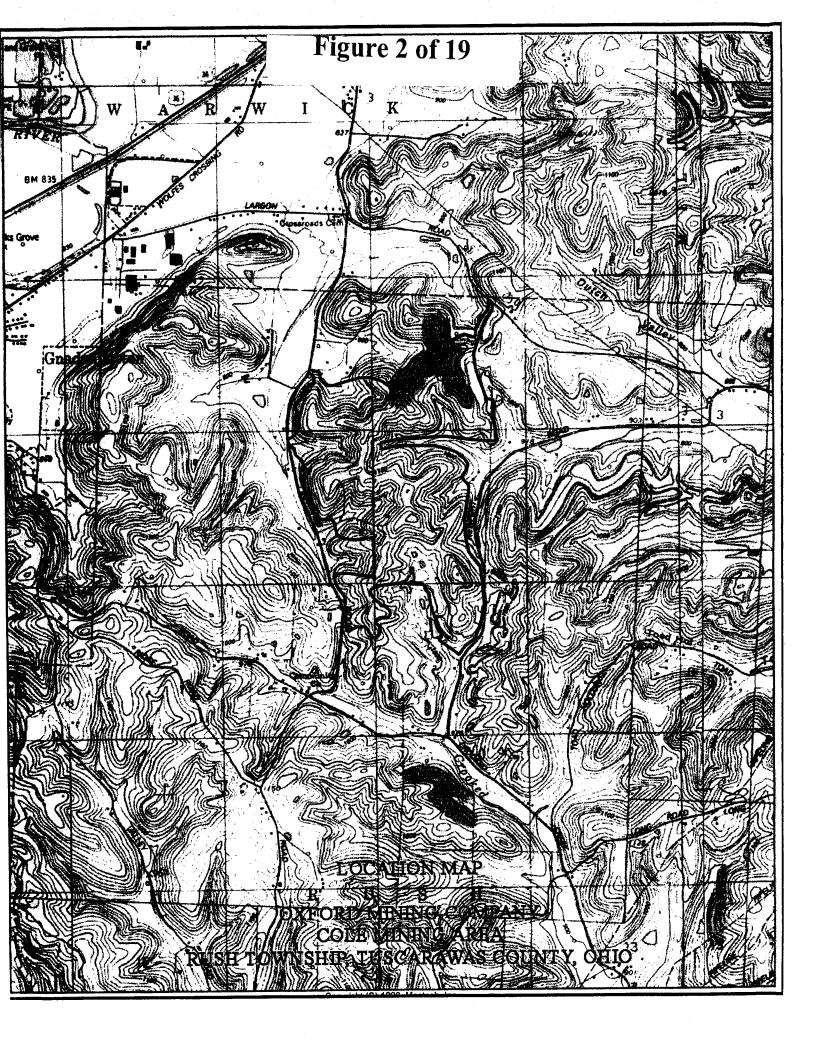
Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

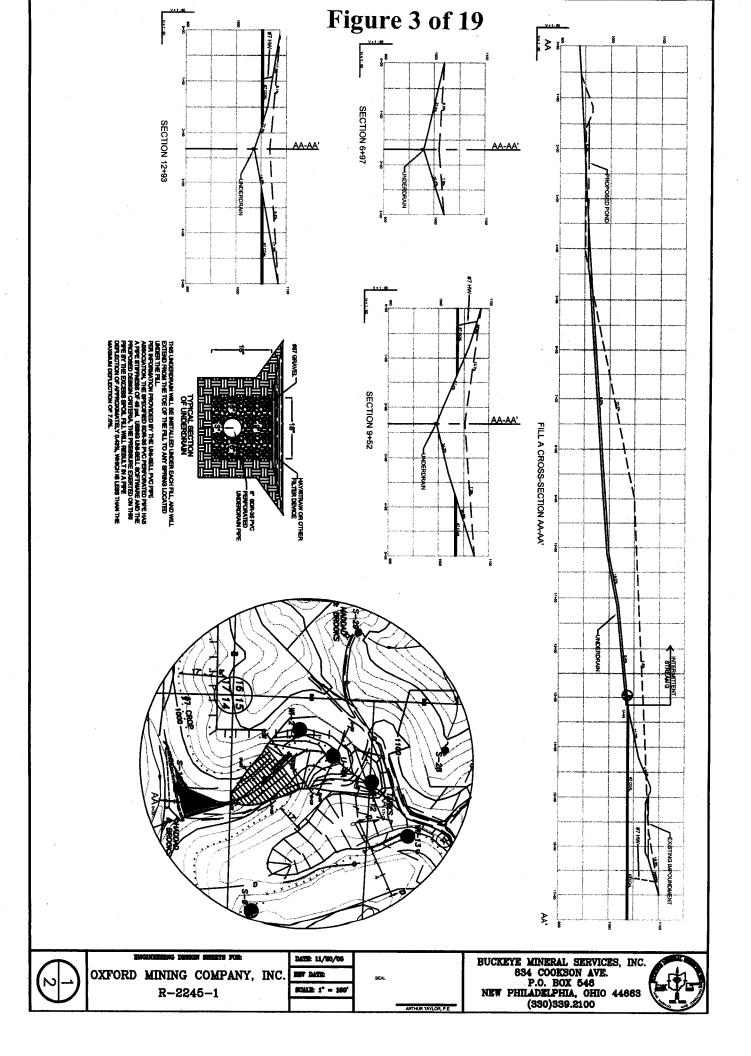
Mr. Jim Spence North Regulatory Section, CELRH-OR-FN U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District 502 Eighth Street Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070.

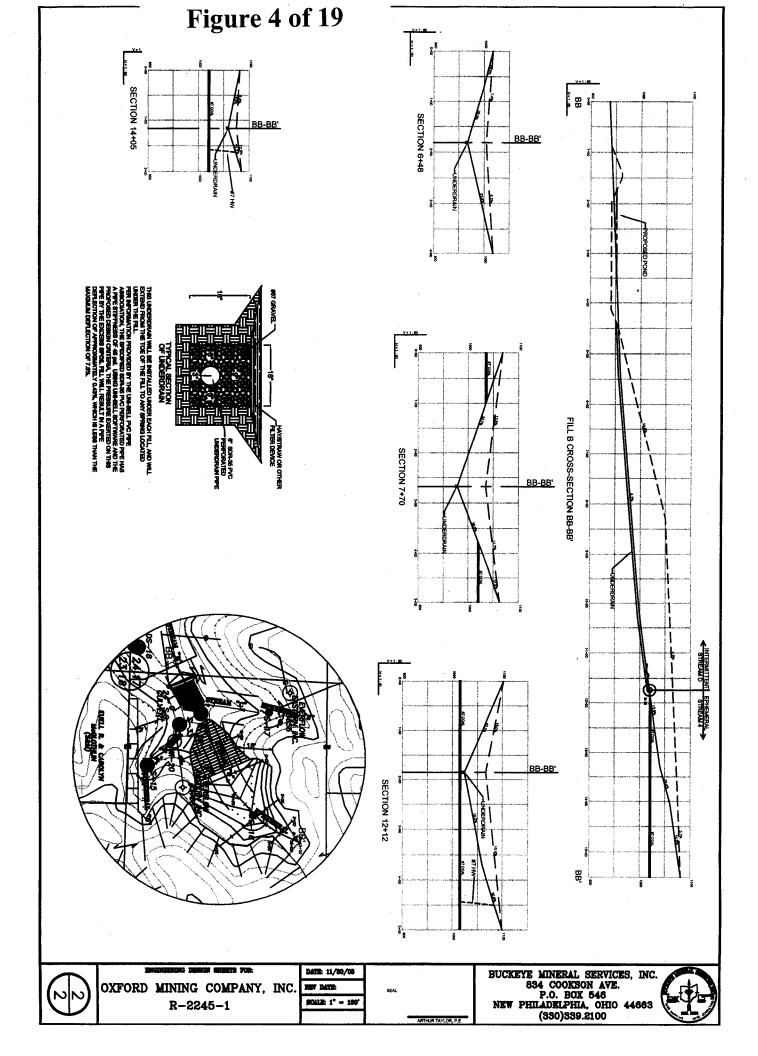
Please note names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mr. Jim Spence of the North Regulatory Section at 304-399-5210.

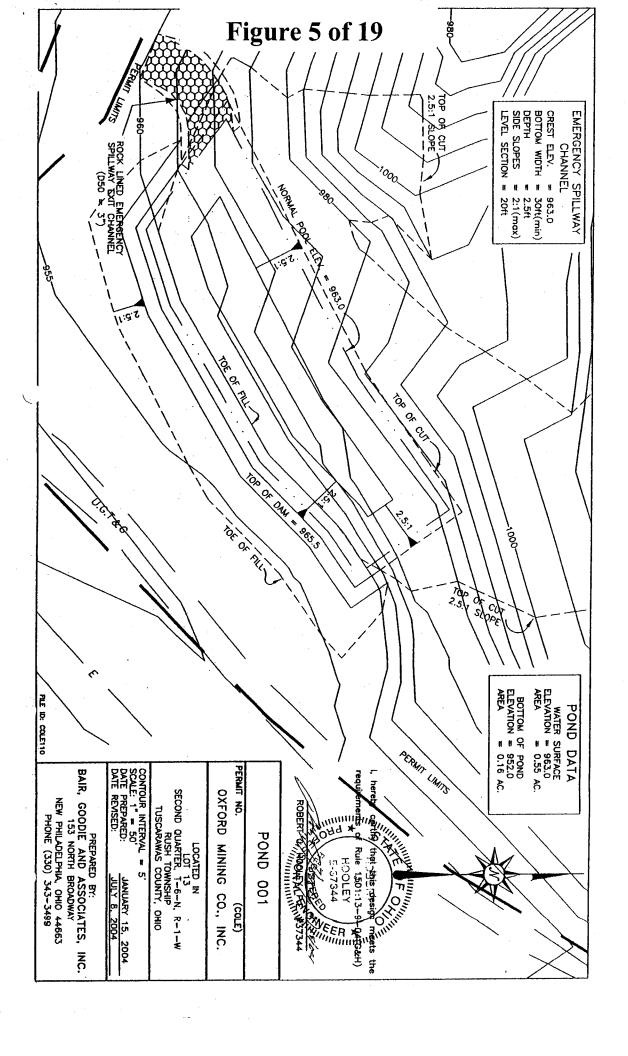
Ginger Mullins, Chief Regulatory Branch

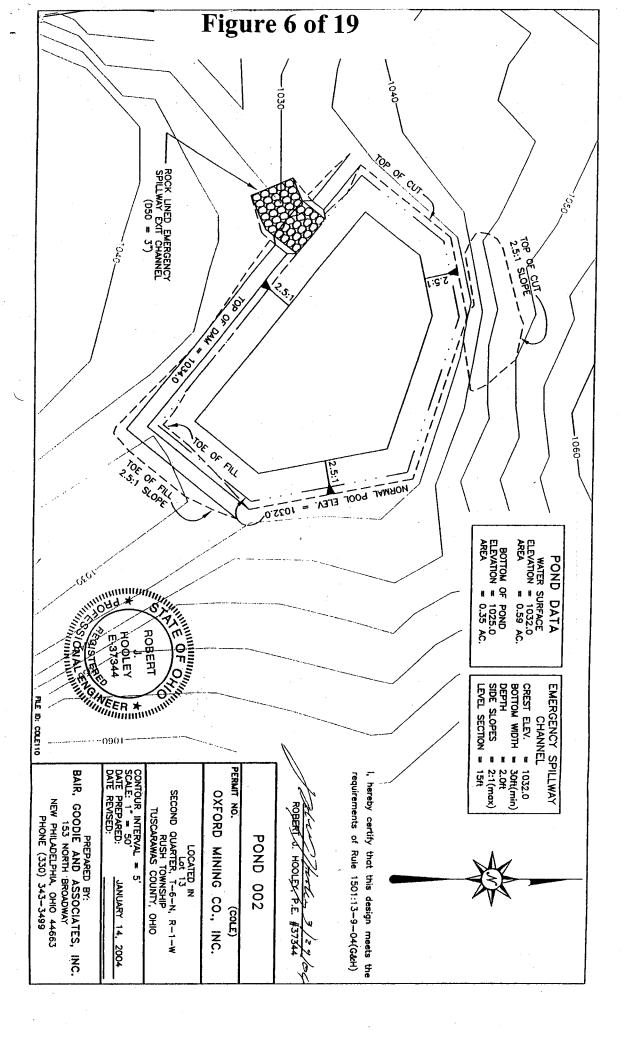


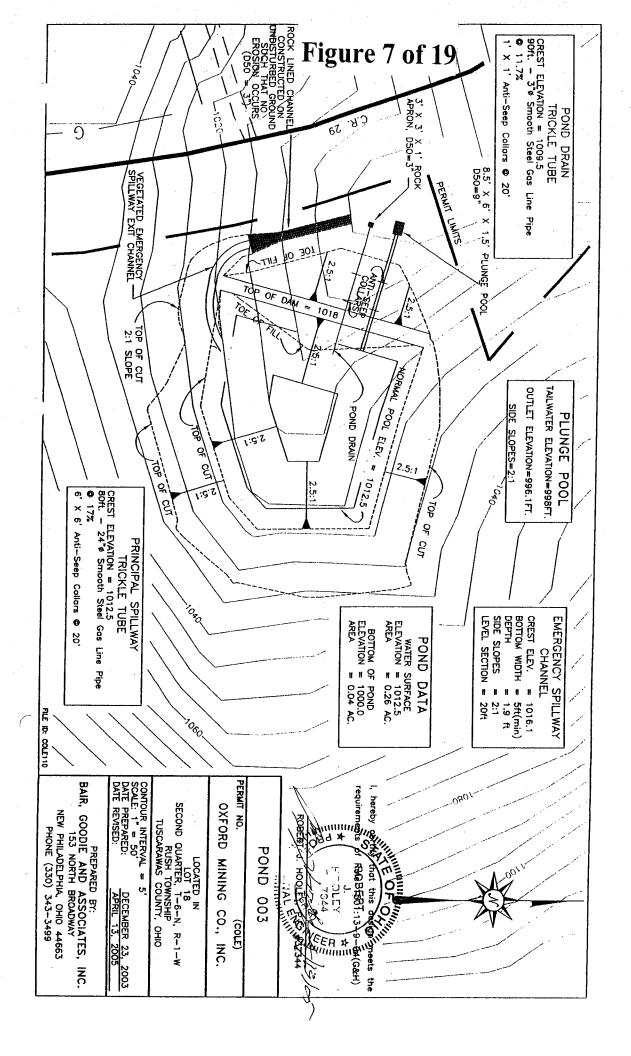


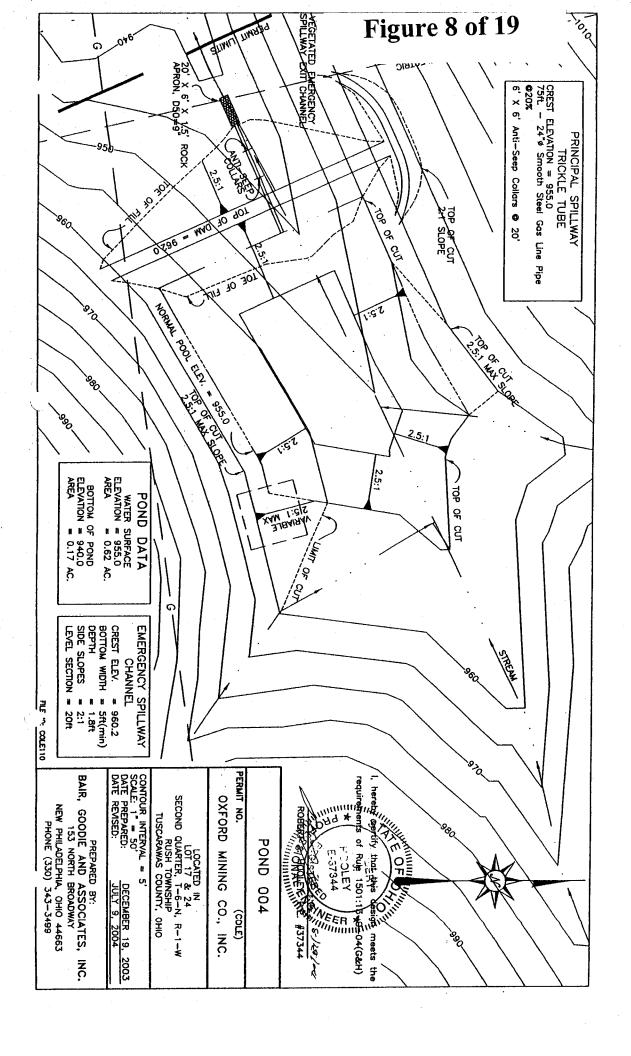


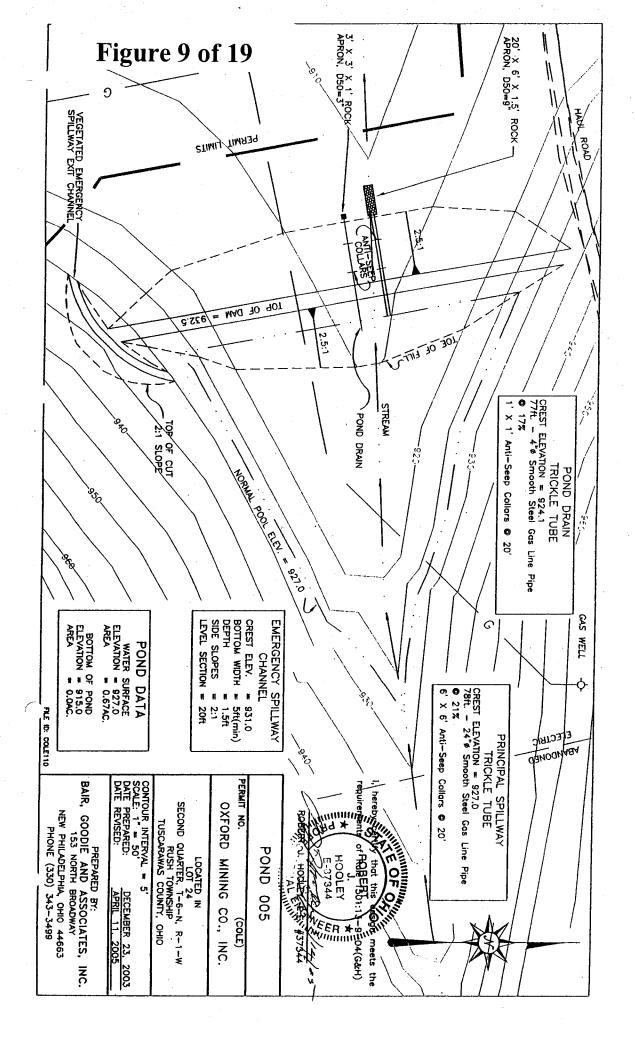


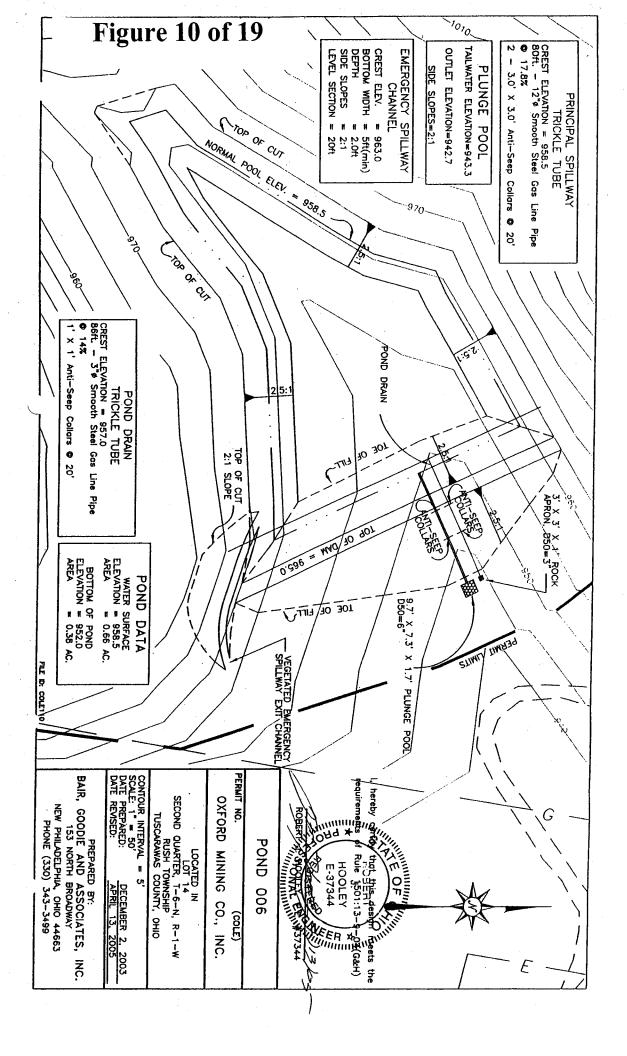


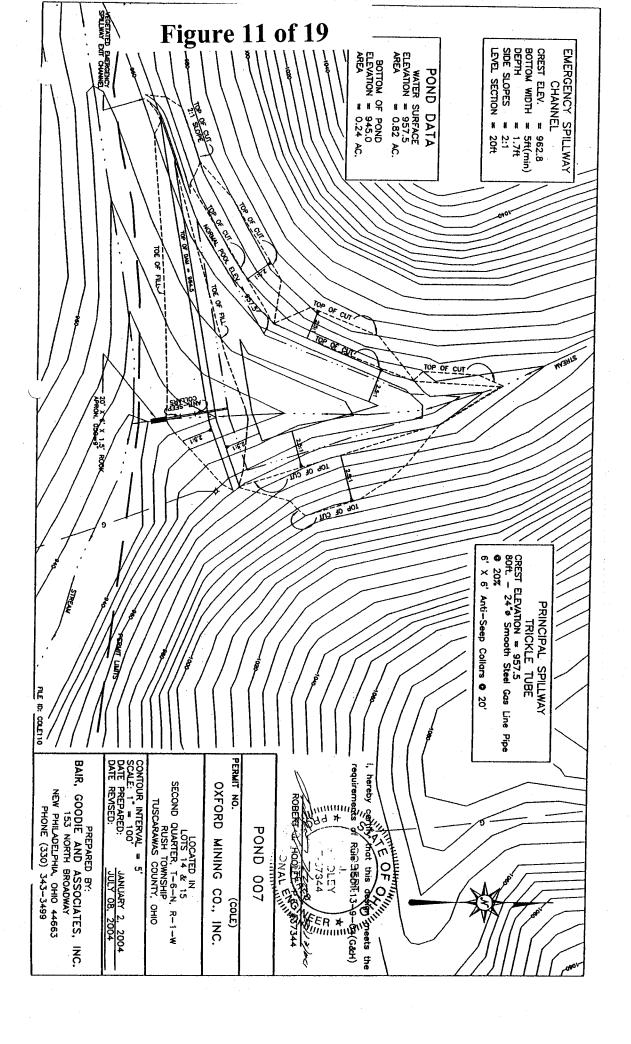


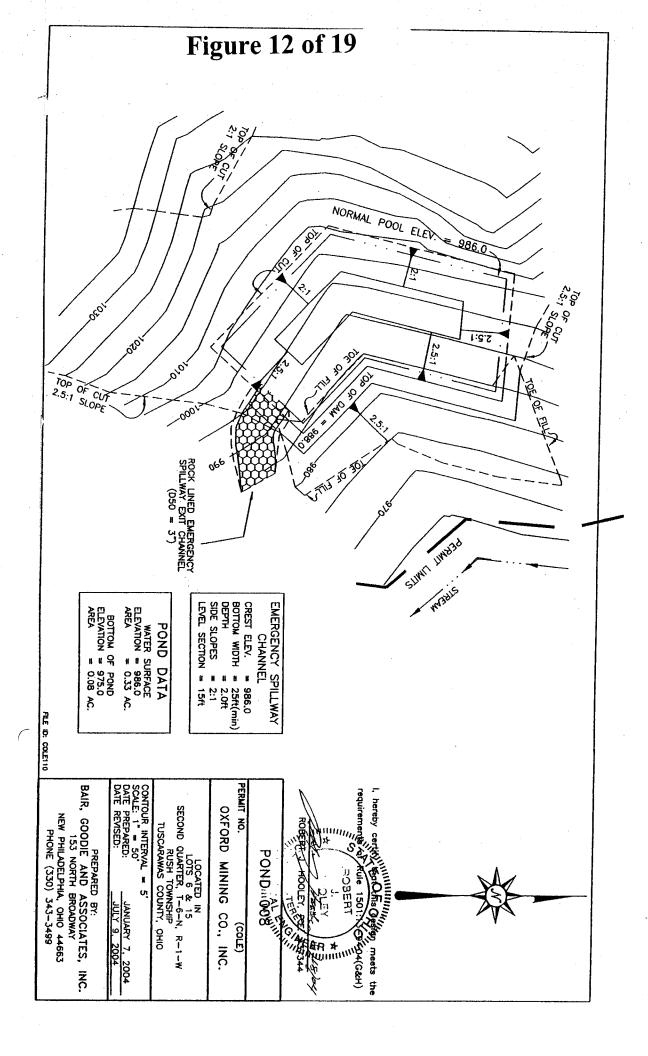


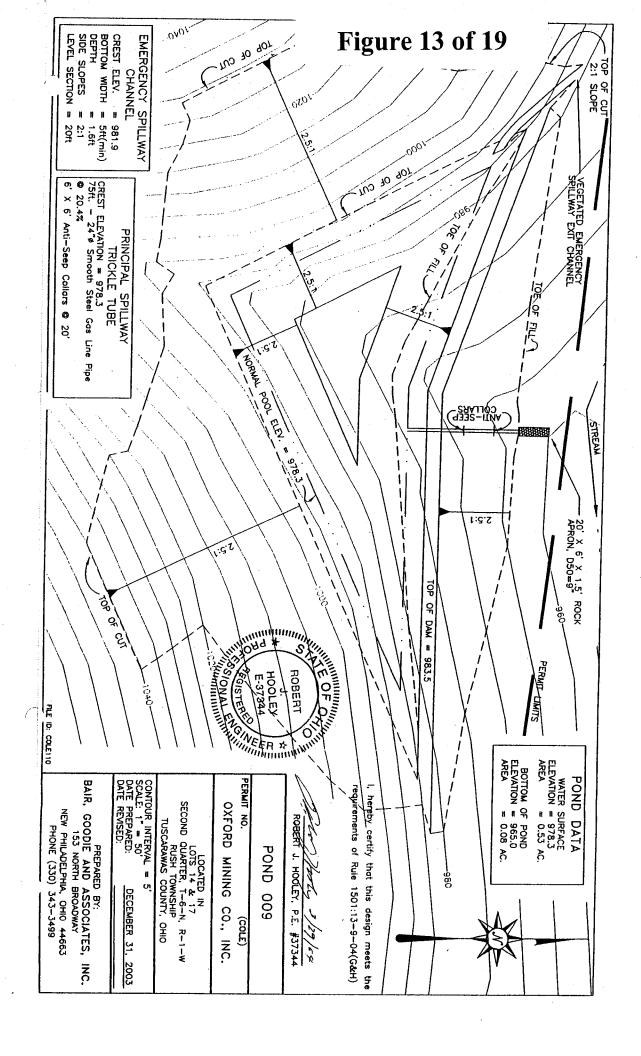


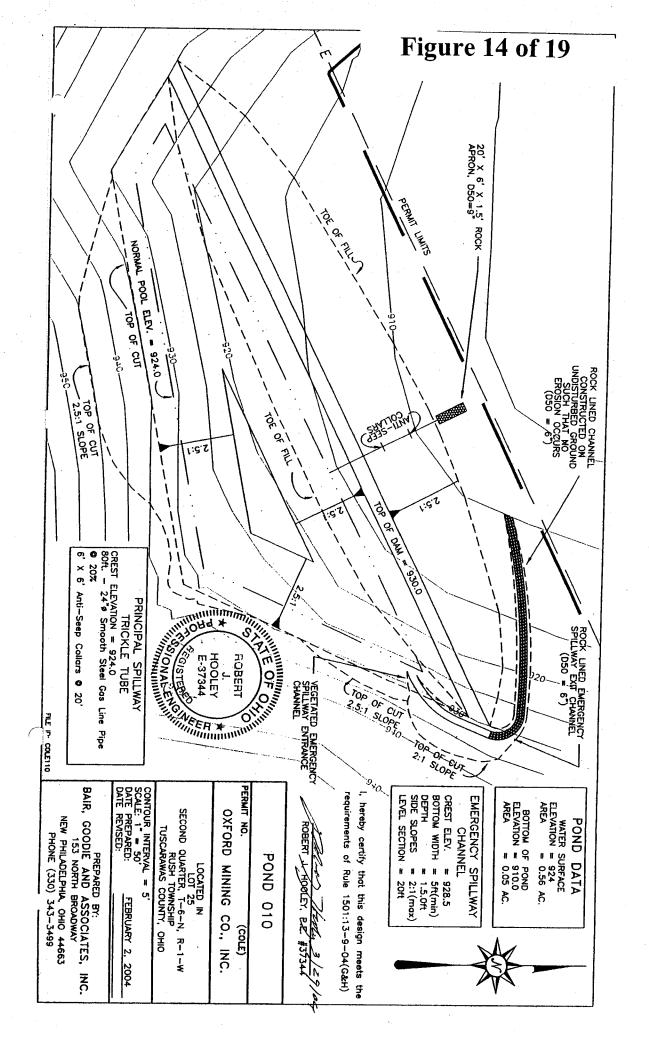












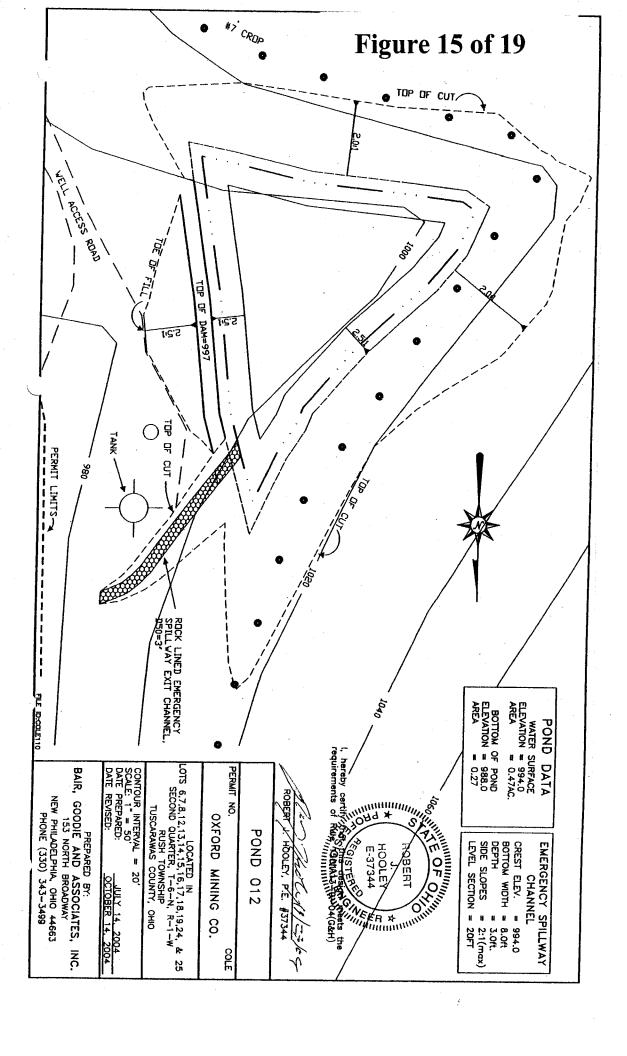
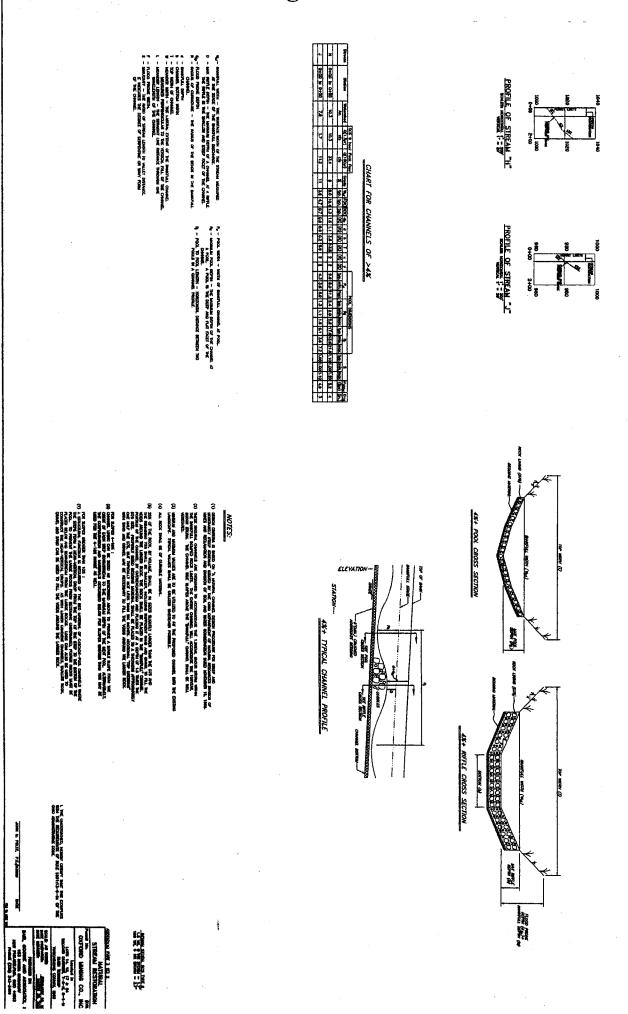


Figure 16 of 19



Addendum to Natural Channel Design, Page 3

TYPICAL POOL CROSS SECTION (Drawing Not to Scale)

Figure 19 of 19

Addendum to Natural Channel Design, Page 4 TYPICAL CHANNEL CROSS SECTION "B" SLOPES GREATER THAN 4% (Drawing Not to Scale) for

